The Remarks of Daniel J Curran, Ph.D., President of the University of Dayton

A Hearing of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census

The Air Force Institute of Technology:
An Intergovernmental Model for Today's Military Education

July 29, 2006 at the National Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Federalism and the Census, and honored guests, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning. I would especially like to extend a warm welcome to our guests from Michigan (Representatives Candace Miller and Thaddeus McCotter) and our guest from Kentucky (Representative Jeff Davis).

My name is Daniel Curran and I am the President of the University of Dayton. The University of Dayton is a Catholic University founded in 1850 by the Marianist religious order and, at over 10,000 students, is the largest private university in the State of Ohio. The university has a well-earned reputation for academic excellence and a national reputation for high-caliber research. It is these two traits that I would like to discuss with you here today, specifically, in terms of how the University has *leveraged* these sources of pride, as well as educational partnerships, to meet the needs of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the United States Air Force, and ultimately, the defense of our nation.

To speak to the matter before us today, the University is a proud partner with the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT). Through recent BRAC processes, the significance of having an institution like AFIT in our midst became clear to the entire Dayton region. Through making the case to keep AFIT at WPAFB, federal, state, and local leaders realized that there were numerous educational opportunities to not only strengthen AFIT, but to enhance the learning opportunities for students drawn to the Dayton Region from all over the country, in fact, the world. From this, the Dayton Area Graduate Studies Institute (DAGSI) was born and nurtured.

DAGSI is a consortium of graduate engineering schools including AFIT, UD, and Wright State. The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati are affiliate members, while Miami University and Ohio University are associate members. Liz Downie, the Director of DAGSI, can best answer any questions you may have on the levels of membership.

The University of Dayton's educational partnership with AFIT, through DAGSI, builds on long and beneficial partnerships with the Air Force that have been in place since the late 1940s. In 1956, seven years after UD secured its first research WPAFB contract to translate aircraft flight-loads data, the University of Dayton Research Institute – commonly referred to as "UDRI" – was born. Since then, UDRI has become a globally recognized leader in research and development of technologies which have not only advanced science but benefited mankind. *UDRI performs approximately $70 million in research annually and is ranked #2 nationally in materials research according to the National Science Foundation.* UDRI remains headquartered on UD's campus and has significant operations at WPAFB (about 140 employees); Robins Air Force Base at Warner Robins, Ga.; Arlington, Va.; Washington, D.C. and Ogden, Utah. I would take this opportunity to add that we in the Dayton Region will take time to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the University of Dayton Research Institute on August 23rd.

Through UDRI and the UD School of Engineering, the University is involved in a number of research areas critical not only to the nation's defense, but the development of technologies that can have significant commercialization opportunities. Some of the areas include:

- Nanotechnology
- Alternative Fuels
- Advanced Materials
- Computational Aerodynamics
- Systems Analysis
- Electro-Optics
- Non-Destructive Inspection
- Aging Systems Sustainment

With operations located at WPAFB, UDRI has been able to work closely with Air Force researchers to respond to the needs of the nation's defense.

The University of Dayton's commitment to research is in synergy with our commitment to student education. Much of the research performed by UDRI is accomplished with a strong presence of student researchers. As of late, the University has had approximately 250 student researchers employed at UDRI annually (40% undergraduate / 60% graduate). Of these students, several dozen are located at WPAFB. The ability for UD and DAGSI students to do world-class Air Force research in the defense of their country – combined with the high caliber students from DAGSI's leading institutions – is a win-win situation for both organizations, not to mention our nation.

The University of Dayton enjoys great working relationships with AFIT and Wright State through DAGSI. The opportunity to share educational activities and resources with AFIT has led to joint research programs in the aforementioned areas between UD and AFIT. These programs often incorporate the best researchers from UD, AFIT and AFRL in discovering and developing new technology needed by the Air Force. AFIT's contributions to both the educational and research activities are very much valued by the University of Dayton.

The presence of student researchers on the base and working on Air Force initiatives on campus has resulted in a number of *graduates taking jobs in the federal government and with defense contractors in the area*. Such students have work experience with the federal government, work backgrounds specifically related to the research at hand, and often have the necessary clearances to start working immediately. WPAFB has been a critical component for UD, as well as the other members of DAGSI, in developing the engineers and scientists to ensure America's international leadership in science and technology, as well as to ensure the ever increasingly complicated defense of our nation.

The University looks forward to being a partner in the relocation of the Air Force's aerospace medicine operations. Through partnerships built on and around the success of DAGSI, as well as local universities' longstanding experience in the areas of medicine, nursing, and human

factors & effectiveness, we can mirror the successes we have seen in areas such as materials, fuels, and systems analysis – all to the nation's benefit.

In closing

Representatives Turner and Hobson, I would like to thank you for your support for AF Research Labs, AFIT, and WPAFB's military and civilian public servants. Your help was invaluable during last year's BRAC process that saw many gains for the area. Your leadership in Congress to promote legislation and policies that help strengthen our national defense through the resources available at WPAFB is greatly appreciated. With that I will conclude my remarks and will be available to answer questions.

Thank you.